

HYLAN REVEALS  
PREFERENTIALS' IN  
ELECTRIC CONDUITSTwo Companies Claim City  
Owes Them \$16,000,000  
Under 30-Year Contracts.PROFIT TURNS DEFICIT  
Conduit Concerns Controlled  
by N. Y. Edison Co. and  
N. Y. Telephone Co.

By Sophie Irene Logg.

That the city has been up against the same proposition as to "preferentials" in the case of electric companies that use the city streets for carrying the underground wires, as it is in the case of the subways, was pointed out to-day by Mayor Hylan when I talked with him as to the city selling to consumers electricity from the surplus power of the subways, amounting to 1,000,000,000 kilowatts, as explained in these columns.

"I think that The Evening World's urging the sale of this enormous surplus power for the subways is very important and would be a great source of revenue to the city, but the city has been confronted with the same difficulty in getting control of these underground conduits and cables, as in the case of the subways themselves.

"Since 1905 suits have been pending between the electric companies and the city to get some kind of an equitable accounting whereby the city could get back its conduits," said the Mayor.

"These electric companies were permitted to construct these conduits for cables in the subways, with the provision that the city could get them back at any time upon payment of their cost plus 10 per cent.

"In the mean time the city was to share in any profit over 10 per cent. of the actual capital invested. But these conditions have continued to add up costs amounting to \$12,000,000, and this has resulted in cumulative deficits the same as in the subways, which the city will have to pay, unless these debts are recaptured, possibly by legislative act.

"The two electric companies concerned in this matter are the Consolidated Telegraph and Electric Subway Company and the Empire City Subway Company.

INTENDED TO BENEFIT CITY;  
PROVES A LOSS.

"It is paradoxical, to say the least," continued the Mayor, "that the occupancy of the streets of the city by these two conduit companies, was for the benefit of the public. One of these was to have all electrical conduits, such as telephone, telegraph and electric light and power wires, taken off the streets and maintained underground, and the other to provide a fair return to the City of New York for the use of the streets for that purpose.

"That both these corporations have made money, in the early years, at least, has been found by referees, but the companies have claimed throughout the thirty years of contract that there has been no profit in which the city could share.

"In July, 1918, I took up this matter in the hope of getting these conduits back to the city, and we have now established a bureau in the Water Supply, Gas and Electricity Department to deal with this question. Special forms have been made for the purpose of following up every item of cost, expended by these corporations, and for the first time the city has had a chance to know exactly what is being spent. This in view of acquiring these conduits and cables at some future time.

"The Consolidated Telegraph and Electric Subway Company alleges capital invested, up to Dec. 31, 1919, of \$24,016,877, against which it claims a cumulative 10 per cent. shortage on the same time is alleged to amount to \$11,546,341.5. The Empire City Subway Company, Ltd., claims for the same period to have expended, as capital invested, \$15,067,827.17, and as a shortage under the 10 per cent. provision existing for the same period, \$5,438,257.05. There is a total shortage claimed of more than \$16,000,000 for both companies.

"In the case of the Consolidated Company the referees, after their report and judgment was entered in the sum of \$19,250,000, from which judgment the city appealed to the Appellate Division, First Department, and it is expected the case will be decided early this year.

"The referees filed their report in the case of the Empire City Company, but the defendants have neglected and refused to enter judgment on the report unless the city would agree to pay one-half of the \$16,000,000 referees' fees and expense of printing, which would amount to approximately \$4,000.

"Not a word of explanation as to why there has been no surplus in which the city could share.

A SUSPICIOUS INTERLOCKING OF INTERESTS.

"The Consolidated Telegraph and Electric Subway Company is controlled by the New York Edison Company, and the Empire City Subway Company, Ltd., is controlled by the New York Telephone Company. If this relationship is borne in mind it will help to explain why the two controlling companies were enabled to take possession of the streets of this city, construct therein a system of conduits to carry the wires and cables used in their business, and collect 10 per cent. a year on the alleged cost of the construction of their conduits and rent or lease the same virtually to themselves at their own figures.

"Since the contracts, which gave the two conduit companies undisputed possession of all underground conduits in this city, went into operation, no proper supervision has been exercised by the city over the transactions of the companies. The city kept no independent record, little or no supervision was ever given to the companies' expenditures, no restrictions were put on the amount of work to be done, and no supervision

Latest Modes in Afternoon and Evening Gowns  
And a Stunning Dress of Jade Sinbad CrepeAmerican Legion Accepts  
the "Service House" Fund,  
Sure That It'll Be Raised

Evening World's Suggestion of a Home, Food  
and Clothes for Wounded Soldiers Gladly  
Adopted by New York's War Survivors—  
17,000 Disabled Men Here, Not 7,000.

By Lilian Bell.

To-day at State Headquarters of the American Legion, Commander Charles G. Blakeslee was formally offered The Evening World Fund which we are raising for the first American Legion Service House, and in the following letter he formally accepts it.

But before I copy the letter, I want to call your attention to our nervous and to the fund in it. I am fully and to the great body of us, we are men (and you know soldiers as well as I do) we offer the American Legion a Fund—which isn't raised.

They—cynics and you've got to know me—men—just as formally accept this Fund—which isn't raised. And both parties are perfectly serious and nobody sees anything at all funny in it—except me.

What do you suppose the Union League Club would say if I went to them and offered to raise a fund to build them a new club house?

They would either reach in their pockets for money to buy me a ticket to Antioch or Ward's Island, or they would turn loose on me the torrents of their sarcasm.

"Why do you think you are?" "What makes you think that you can raise money?" "No."

Wouldn't I catch it? "I'll say I would."

But here we offer and accept a fund for wounded ex-service men—a large fund to rent, repair, furnish and run a service house, with sublime confidence that the money is as good as raised and yet not a cent of it has yet materialized.

"Can you beat it?" "I'll say you cannot."

The reason, however, is not far to seek.

The cause of the disabled takes precedence over everything else in the world in the hearts of Americans. I know this. Therefore I offered it. The American Legion knows this. Therefore they accepted it.

THE LETTER OF ACCEPTANCE  
AND GRATITUDE.

Now here is Commander Blakeslee's letter to The Evening World:

It is with a sense of profound

gratitude that I, as Commander of the American Legion in this State, note the extraordinarily generous project you have proposed; namely, the collection of sufficient funds to operate a Service House in New York City for the benefit of the 7,000 wounded, disabled and indigent ex-service men now needing help.

I can think of no more pressing need of no greater duty, and of no more fitting expression of appreciation of a great city to its citizens, than this. It has long been a matter of regret with me that the Legion itself could not out of its own slender finances undertake this work. As you doubtless know, however, the financial condition of a large percentage of the members of the American Legion is to-day not very satisfactory. It is therefore with a deep sense of our obligation to the service men and of our appreciation to The Evening World and its readers who may contribute to it, as State Commander of the American Legion, accept your generous offer.

It is especially pleasing to know that this fund is being collected by a newspaper which has made itself known for its fairness in dealing with funds of this nature. The position which The Evening World has taken in the past in exposing impostors, fakirs and those collecting commissions in the name of war charity, assures me that this fund will be collected by wholly proper, ethical and satisfactory methods.

I assure you that I know of no finer, greater piece of work that can be done for the community, and I am sure that this fund will do for the good of the community which it represents than the collection of this fund. And I further assure you that the American Legion in taking this fund pledges itself to a conscientious, careful and scrupulous expenditure where it will do the greatest amount of good; namely, for the wounded, the disabled and the indigent veterans of the World War. Sincerely yours,

CHARLES G. BLAKESLEE,  
Commander Department of New York.

Now, that's what I call a good letter. Personally, I am glad the American Legion estimates The World newspaper as highly, but they only know their printed notes.

If they knew as I do the personnel of the two papers, how fine the men and women are who work so tirelessly to make those who great newspapers missed and yet not a cent of it has yet materialized.

In our Christmas campaign every department of the papers took up a collection and gave to the Fund for Wounded Soldiers. Even the restaurant girls gave! And then they are all so pleasant to work with. They stop me in the hall and introduce themselves and bid me goodnight. The elevator boys meet me with smiles, ask how much we took in to-day and wish me luck, and even the editors use the blue pencil with—what shall I say?—discretion!

A fine bunch. The World people,

and I don't care who hears me say it.

Now, here is a letter which depresses me inexpressibly—the unhappy result of it, I mean.

My dear Miss Bell: I have read with interest your wonderful article in to-day's Evening World, and I have realized for some time the condition that exists with reference to our disabled men.

I have been working for and with these men in New York City for more than a year and a half, and I feel that your statement that there are 7,000 men walking the streets to-day who are disabled from their service is entirely too small. You will find upon investigation that there are approximately 7,000 men enrolled in training with the Federal Board for Vocational Education and you will find that there are 8,000 to 10,000 others who have developed a disability since their service, due to gas or influenza, and the Government has not yet recognized their claims.

The above additional 10,000 include the thousands of mental cases who are not classed as physically disabled by the Bureau of War Risk Insurance and who, on account of the nature of their disability, are not classed as feeble-minded, but are in the Federal Board. This will make a total of nearly 17,000 men who are walking our streets to-day with disabilities instead of 7,000.

Our commander to-day has written you commending you on this work and I am sure you can depend upon his office for every possible co-operation.

Sincerely yours,  
RICHARD T. BELL,  
Director Service Division.

THE PLIGHT OF THE TUBERCULAR EX-SOLDIERS.

Is it any wonder that the hospitals are filling up?

I went out to Fox Hills to see the very tubercular ward. And there lay row on row of pallid-faced boys, in the open air, covered up with blankets, but staring at the boards of the next ward, their view at either end, another set of boards.

It was just like putting tubercular cases in a court of an apartment house.

Think of it! To lie there all day and look at three blank walls. No one to talk to. No one to read aloud. Just to lie there and think.

If I had to do it for just one day I would go mad and bite holes in those board walls.

Yet the wounded now walking the streets homeless and ill-fed, are being sent to Fox Hills—the place on earth least fitted for a hospital for any body, and worst of all, for tubercular cases.

Mud, fog, dampness, totally unfavourable situation and worst of all, a veritable garbage heap.

Send me money for the First American Legion Service House, where we can feed and clothe the wounded and take their minds off their troubles, or shall we hold onto our money and send our wounded to Fox Hills to die?

Think of letting homeless boys know that such a place exists as a Service House!

I would like to have out a sign in electric lights at every railroad terminal in New York City blaring high against the sky, "American Legion Service House No. 1," and under it the address.

Wouldn't that look like a little bit of heaven to the homeless boy as he steps from the train with his shabby suit and his empty pockets?

I wonder how much money we will take in to-day?

Do, please, figure to send it in. I want to tell the elevator boys.

Send all checks to Evening World Service House Fund for Wounded Soldiers.

Presbyterians in Costume Entertainment.

Amateur talent of the congregation of the Fourth Presbyterian Church, West End Avenue and 91st Street, will give a period costume entertainment entitled "Ye Old Fashioned Album" in the parlors of the church to-morrow night.

MAKES FIREMEN  
ON LADDER WAIT  
TO SAVE HER CAT

"Young Women Must Protect  
Husbands, Old Maids  
Their Pets."

Miss M. C. Kern, who lives on the second story of a building at No. 161 West 11th Street, to-day told firemen who had run up a ladder to her window after flames had cut off her exit by the stairway that they must "wait a minute." She ducked back into the dense smoke and it was feared she had been overcome when a moment later she appeared at the window with a mewling cat in her arms. She descended safely.

"Young women have to protect their husbands in case of fire," she explained to Fire Battalion Chief Quinn and Policeman Flynn. "But we old maids have to care for our pets."

In the front part of the building were two sisters, Mrs. E. Whittemore Beaumont and Mrs. Walter Floyd Crosby. Firemen led them to safety.

The blaze completely destroyed the Martha Washington Laundry on the ground floor, but was kept from eating up into the living quarters above. The proprietors and neighbors managed to save a stack of shirts which they piled in Eleventh Street and later distributed to their owners.

Policeman O'Connell turned from Houston into Mercer Street at 3 A. M. to-day just in time to see flames burst from the fourth story windows of the five-story loft building whose rear is at No. 190 Mercer Street. When Battalion Chief Brennan arrived with his men he recognized it as the building that runs through to No. 62 Broadway, in which there was a destructive blaze that caused considerable criticism of the department in 1911.

A second alarm brought Chief Kenton, who was at the former blaze, which it was charged, "got away" from the firemen, and he sent a third alarm.

The blaze did \$26,000 damage on the fourth floor, occupied by H. B. Ferguson & Co. and the Oval Web Mills, and the fifth, occupied by the H. Brantley Company. All the firms in the building are underwear and cap manufacturers.

WHITMAN TO ASK  
A NEW GRAND JURY  
IN HUNT FOR GRAFT

Also a Supreme Court Justice  
—Energies Now Centre on  
Homicide Bureau.

Special Assistant District Attorney Whitman went to the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court this afternoon for a conference with several of the Justices in reference to his investigation of graft in the city departments. It was reported that the reason for this conference was that Mr. Whitman has found his work to promise such magnitude that he wants a Supreme Court Justice and another Grand Jury to aid in the task which is likely to be too much for the Court of General Session and a single Grand Jury.

Before going to the court Mr. Whitman said that he expected to go before Judge Crane's Grand Jury, perhaps this afternoon, and ask for the indictment of two more members of the Automobile Squad for receiving improper gratuities. He said also that he is investigating charges that members of the Five Department have been the recipients of unlawful fees for doing work to which they were officially assigned.

Figures from official records have disclosed to Mr. Whitman an almost unbelievable state of affairs concerning the apprehension and conviction of murderers in New York County. All of his attention is just now turned to an investigation of the Homicide Bureau. Not only has it been discovered that the discrepancy between the number of murders and that of the persons indicted for them is, apparently, out of all proportion, but also that in the last year only one person was convicted of murder in the first degree although the police records show that 679 cases of reported homicide were investigated.

It has been stated that the appalling increase of crimes of violence in this city is due largely to the law's delay through the incessant postponement of criminal court calendars. But evidence which has been placed in Mr. Whitman's hands in the last few days would seem to indicate that part of the responsibility lies elsewhere.

In the year just ended it had been shown by figures that in the 679 cases of killing investigated by the Homicide Bureau, only 139 were presented to the Grand Jury.

Upon these only seventy-eight indictments were found and the convictions were slender in the first degree. In 1919, 12, and second degree, 9, a total of 21. Added to this there were 16 acquittals, an equal number of defendants were permitted to plead to other indictments and three were adjudged insane.

The records for the last twenty years show that at that time only ninety-three persons have been convicted in this county of murder in the first degree. The largest number in any year was fourteen in 1912. In 1908, 1911 and last year there was but one such conviction a year.

5 COMMISSIONERS  
IN BROOKLYN LOSE  
"DRY" AUTHORITY

Expected to Resign as Result  
of an Order From the  
Attorney General.

By an order received from the Attorney General at Washington to-day, the five United States Commissioners in Brooklyn are practically stripped of authority in Prohibition cases. As a result, it was said that they would probably resign. They are Michael P. McGoldrick, James H. McCabe, Edmund D. Hennessy, Henry Barmore and Henry S. Rusquin.

The matter became known to-day when United States District Attorney Ross sent a letter to each Commissioner asking him to attend a conference in his office to-morrow.

In his letter the District Attorney said:

"The Department is sending you a supply of blank forms of criminal information for your use in the prosecution of misdemeanors under the National Prohibition Act. Whenever practicable, you should initiate prosecutions under this act by the filing of an information, thereby avoiding Grand Jury proceedings and unnecessary hearings before United States Commissioners, both of which are expensive and cumbersome and occupy too much of the time of your agents and that of Prohibition agents, when they should be in the field."

NEED NO WARRANT  
TO SEIZE WHISKEY

Nor Shall Hotel or Saloon Men  
Need to Know of Sales by  
His Employees.

The United States Circuit Court of Appeals in a decision affirming the conviction and sentence of Albert L. Wiggins, proprietor of the Hotel Wiggins, No. 910 Eighth Avenue, ruled on two important points. Wiggins was convicted on June 8 of violation of the Volstead Act and sentenced by Judge Clegg to pay a fine of \$100 and serve 60 days in the Tombs. The evidence was furnished by policemen who swore they bought a glass of whiskey from a

bartender in Wiggins' Hotel and seized three bottles of whiskey there. Through his counsel, George Denahan, Wiggins appealed on the ground that there was lack of evidence to show his ownership of the hotel or of the alleged sale of whiskey by his bartender.

Judges Rogers, Hough and Stanton held that a warrant was not needed by a law officer to seize whiskey nor is it necessary to prove that the proprietor of a hotel employing a bartender is a bartender or other employee sold liquor.

TEN BUFFALO DRY  
AGENTS SUSPENDED

Action Follows Beginning of In-  
quiry Into Alleged Big Whiskey  
Ring.

BUFFALO, Feb. 10.—Ten prohibition enforcement agents including Edwin T. Watson, formerly in charge of the Western New York district, were suspended from duty to-day.

The suspensions were announced following the arrival of D. U. Chapin, State Prohibition Enforcement Director who came here to investigate charges of wholesale operations of a whiskey ring.

FATHER'S "VISION"  
MAY SOLVE MURDER

Tells Bayonne Police He "Sees"  
Fatal Fight With Another Woman  
in Certain Restaurant.

John T. Hayward, father of Dolly Sanowitch, who was beaten to death and thrown into Newark Bay Monday night, called at Bayonne Police Headquarters to-day and suggested his daughter was murdered by a woman. He said he had no definite information on the subject but ascribed his state of mind to a "vision."

"I can see," said Hayward, "a certain restaurant. I can see two women, jealous because of their dealings with one man, fighting with each other. I can see knives and forks flying. I can see one of the women pick up a heavy object and strike the other woman over the head with it."

"There was dismay and apprehension when it was found the woman in this case, the body was hastily hidden and later on when the stream was deserted it was wrapped in bedclothing and carried to an automobile and then thrown into the bay."

Veterans of Foreign Wars Dance  
in Tammany Hall Friday.

The Hayes-Fanning Post No. 357, Veterans of Foreign Wars, will give a ball at Tammany Hall on Friday night.

The commander of this post is Daniel Hartigan, who was the Captain of Company M, 15th Infantry, 1st Division, and also served with the 77th Division. The Chairman is James Cotton, who was severely wounded while serving with Company F, 9th Infantry, 2d Division. The post also includes Fred Steffen, the national Color Bearer of the V. F. W.

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Misses' Dress Salon—Second Floor

Women's Dress Salon—Third Floor